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ABSTRACT

This collection of essays addresses the debate over moral education. The contributors deal with whether educators should influence children's value orientation through a direct program advocating restraint and higher moral standards, or whether educators should teach students to cope and adapt by providing a variety of alternatives from which the students themselves can choose. In "Part 1: Introduction," chapters include: "Moral and Character Education in the Elementary School: An Introduction" (Jacques S. Benninga); and "Doing Justice to Morality in Contemporary Values Education" (Larry P. Nucci). "Part 2: The Developmental or Indirect Approach to Moral Education" includes the following chapters: "Lawrence Kohlberg's Influence on Moral Education in Elementary Schools" (Robert W. Howard); "An Integrated Approach to Character Development in the Elementary School Classroom" (Thomas Lickona); "Democracy in the Elementary School: Learning by Doing" (Ethel Sadowsky); and "Development and Practice of Democracy in a K-8 School" (Robert J. Weintraub). "Part 3: The Character Education or Direct Approach to Moral Education" includes the following chapters: "Moral Literacy and the Formation of Character" (William J. Bennett); "Character and Academics in the Elementary School" (Edward A. Wynne); "Character Development in Small Rural Schools: Grades K-8" (JoAnne Martin-Reynolds, Bill J. Reynolds); and "Character Development at Fort Washington Elementary School" (Richard K. Sparks, Jr.). In "Part 4: Focusing on Citizenship and Social Problem Solving" chapters include: "Promoting Civic Understanding and Civic Skills through Conceptually Based Curricula" (Alita Zurav Letwin); "Educating for Citizenship in the Early Grades" (Carolyn Pereira); "Developing Social Competence in Young Handicapped and Withdrawn Children" (James J. Fox, Mary A. McEvoy, Robert Day); and "Teaching Peace and Conflict Resolution" (Robert E. Valett). "Part 5: Epilogue" contains the final chapter, "Synthesis and Evaluation in Moral and Character Education" (Jacques S. Benninga). Contains an index. (RJC)